

2/17/78

Dear Mark,

The timing of your letter of the 13th and of the enclosures was perfect. Thanks.

It happens that Earl Gelz had called me about this day before yesterday. Your letter came yesterday. So, from having the docs before me I was able to add to the suggestions I'd made to him.

It also happens that in this case the caution to protect Earl's interest was not necessary because he had spoken to me the day before, it is, as a general practise, a wise caution and I appreciate it.

From time to time I deal with a number of reporters. They have competitive interests. There is only one way - each has his own rights and the rights of each are respected. So if you write me or send me something and you know of a reporter's interest or if you are working with one on anything, please always tell me.

This aspect has from the first been one of my major interests. If you see anything else please just send it. I do not yet have the first 40,001 and if I did I'd not have time to go over them now. If the cost runs up tell me periodically and I'll repay you.

I'm getting a few from Paul. I asked for some for the FOIA cases from his lists and they turned out to be quite in point. I've already sent Jim copies with memos. I'm now keeping what I get from Paul in a separate file so duplicates can always go into a subject file.

I do not recall that anyone going over records here found these or expressed any particular interest in Griffin. It may be that Ken Potter asked me about him but that was before I saw these copies. I have had my own interest in him for a decade and knew about his transfer since 1968.

Jerry phoned me several times about his story and the affidavit, promised several times to send me copies, I told him I'd supply copies to Jim, and I've heard nothing more. This does not hurt me. It saves me time. But it foreclosed what I could have done to add to what Jerry was trying to do. Where I agree with what others are going I'll do what I can to help. As a recent example, when I heard of the purposes, or alleged purposes of Lane's recent press conference I was response for about 20% of the actual press he had at it. If he had been for real in it he'd have had a good Washington press, which is what he wanted, and I did arrange for it, regardless of what I think about him.

I guess Zelden has his own interests and reasons. He was not this way with me before. Only after he asked me to send that to him and I did. This was before I had a decent copying machine. But don't work about it. ... You have the right Andrews. If he has no law office he is sicker or working for someone else. Please give him a ~~call~~ call for me.

If and when you get time please look Larry Borenstein up for me. I think you'd like to meet him anyway. Good way used to be at his Vuacresson Creole Cafe, around the corner from Preservation Hall (his). Tell him that when I was down there I had no record player and that now I do and that I like the kind of music his people play - knew some of their northern counterparts when I was young - and would like to get any records available. If they have tapes or records of the Wolf Trap performance of one of the jazz bands aired by Public TV a year of so ago, I really enjoyed that.

I did tell Amos(s?) to call you and I spoke to him yesterday, so I know you spoke to him reluctantly. He was referred to me by Martin Waldron of the NYTimes, a friend and one of the best reporters. I see nothing wrong with the story he wants to work on. He knows nothing about the subject, so I suppose the paper has no subject expert left. If there is the story he is looking for I think its appearance will not result in other than you now would like.

There may have been a recent wire story on Jerry "ay's suit being thrown out of court in Memphis. The Washington papers carried no story.

Thanks and best wishes,